

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, TW

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ROC CULTURAL GROUPS TO THE U.S.

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REF: A) TAIPEI 6299 B) STATE 226810

1. WE DID NOT INTEND IN REF. B TO IMPLY THAT ROC GROUPS WERE DEVIATING FROM THEIR ITINERARIES OR THAT SCHEDULING CONFLICTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE INFORMATION FROM EMBASSY TAIPEI. THE FEW SCHEDULING CONFLICTS CAME TO OUR ATTENTION AFTER WE HAD APPROVED THE VISITS OF THE ROC GROUPS, AND WERE USUALLY THE RESULT OF SUBSEQUENT SCHEDULING BY THE SPONSOR OF THE PRC GROUP. THE INFORMATION REQUESTED IN REF. B WILL BE USED NOT ONLY TO AVOID OR MINIMIZE SCHEDULING CONFLICTS, BUT, WHERE SUCH CONFLICTS APPEAR POSSIBLE, TO ENABLE US TO ASSESS THE LIKLIHOOD AND POSSIBLE SEVERITY OF ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES.

2. WE ARE INTERESTED IN ROC GROUPS WHICH A) WILL BE INVOLVED IN PUBLIC OR INVITATIONAL PERFORMANCES OR COMPETITION, B) ARE OTHERWISE LIKELY TO ATTRACT

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PUBLICITY, OR C) NON-PERFORMING CULTURAL GROUPS OR

DELEGATIONS WHICH WILL TRAVEL WITH AN ROC IDENTITY AND
THUS BE A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF EMBARRASSMENT IF THEY

SHOULD ACCIDENTALLY CONFRONT A PRC DELEGATION OR IF THEIR
PRESENCE IN A GIVEN CITY SHOULD BE PUBLICIZED WHILE A
PRC DELEGATION IS VISITING THE SAME CITY. YOU SHOULD
INFORM US, BEFORE ISSUING VISAS, OF ALL SUCH PLANNED
VISITS. FOR GROUPS IN THE FIRST TWO CATEGORIES, WE MIGHT
WANT TO WITHHOLD ISSUANCE OF VISAS UNTIL WE HAVE
RECEIVED FULL INFORMATION ON ITINERARIES AND PERFORMANCE
SCHEDULES. FOR THE LAST CATEGORY, A SIMPLE ITINERARY
SHOULD SUFFICE.

3. YOUR SUGGESTION OF A TWO-STAGE PROCESS SOUNDS
USEFUL, AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR PROCEEDING WITH
IT. EVEN IN CASES IN WHICH WE CAN APPROVE THE VISIT
ON THE BASIS OF THE INFORMATION ORIGINALLY PROVIDED,
THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE
WOULD BE USEFUL IN CASE OF A LATER CONFLICT. IN
ADDITION TO INFORMATION REQUESTED REF. B PARA 1, YOU
SHOULD ASK GROUPS FOR SPECIFIC DATES AND LOCATIONS
(COLLEGE AUDITORIUM, COMMERCIAL THEATER, ETC.) OF
PERFORMANCES, ALTHOUGH WE REALIZE THAT IN MANY OR PERHAPS
MOST INSTANCES THEY WILL NOT HAVE THAT INFORMATION.

4. WE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS IN THIS TEDIOUS TASK. ROBINSON

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